



Tippy's Mouse House

The Ten Commandments: Love People

BIG IDEA: God shows me how to love.

BIBLE BASIS: Exodus 19:1-20:21; 31:18-32:19

KEY VERSE: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Matthew 22:39

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

I recently traveled to Northern California to go hiking with my brothers. As we drove up and down miles and miles of mountain roads to get to our remote location, I came to greatly appreciate two things—speed limit signs and guard rails. When the speed limit dropped from 55 mph to 20 mph as we approached a winding path, I quickly obeyed. Sometimes I even went under the speed limit, which is noteworthy for me. These roads were not for the faint of heart as there were sheer cliffs looming just outside the car. Without the guard rails, I think I would have been paralyzed with fear and unable to move forward. As I hiked through the beautiful National Park, I reflected on the experience. I realized that the laws and barriers placed on the roadside were a blessing, much like the laws God has given us. Instead of keeping me from experiencing life, they allow me to experience it to the full. (Psalm 19)

If you stand up in front of the kids of your church and announce that you're going to focus all your time on rules, you probably won't hear a round of applause. The word "rules" sounds confining to kids, so it's important to help them understand that God's rules bring freedom. As Moses went on his hike up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, the Israelites decided to have a party. God isn't against parties, but this one was different. Instead of celebrating the life and love given to them by their Creator, they created their own god—a golden calf.

We have all broken the Ten Commandments because we are all sinners, just like the ancient Israelites. Instead of embracing God's rules as a blessing, we see them as confining. Even though God's laws are good, they were never intended to bring salvation. The Mosaic Law shows us that we are sinners in need of a Savior. When Jesus came, he did something we never could—He kept the law perfectly. Romans 10:4 says, "Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law on our behalf and now gives us the freedom to live our lives as a gift of love to God and others. After all, that is what the law was always based on—love for God and love for others. (Matthew 22:36-40)

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☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

THUMBODY LOVES YOU

Supplies: “Thumbody Loves You” card (1 per child), Stamp pads (2–3), Wet wipes (1 pack)

Directions: Give each child a “Thumbody Loves You” card. The card will have a heart on it. Tell the children to press their thumb onto the stamp pad, then fill the heart with their thumbprints. As the children are creating, encourage them to give the card to somebody they love.

Say: This is a great way to show people you love them. It’s not the only way, though! During today’s Bible story, we’re going to learn about six rules God gives us that help us show people we love them.

Question: Who are you going to give your card to? Why do you love them so much?

☆ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

BROKEN TABLET (Application Activity)

Supplies: Stone Tablet Puzzle (1 per group)

Preparation: Print the Stone Tablet Puzzle on cardstock paper, then cut on the lines.

Say: In today’s story, Moses threw the stone tablets on the ground and they broke into pieces. We’re going to play a game where we put one of the tablets back together and remember some of God’s commandments. We’ll also remember that **God shows me how to love.**

Directions: Tell the children to close and cover their eyes. Hide the 6 pieces of tablet in fairly easy to find places. Next, tell the children to find the pieces and return them to you. When all of the pieces have been returned, sit with the children in a circle. Work together to put the tablet back together starting with commandment #5 at the top and working down. As you add each piece of the tablet, ask the children what they could do to obey that commandment. Continue until the entire tablet has been put back together.



CRAZY COMMANDMENTS (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, we learned about six more commandments (or rules) God gives us. They're commandments that help us show love to other people. We're going to play a game to see if we can remember what some of those commandments are.

Directions: Have the children line up against a wall. Stand at the opposite side of the room. Tell the children if they hear one of God's commandments, take one big step towards you. (The lines in **bold** are God's commandments.) But if they hear something that is *not* one of God's commandments, they must stand still. Tell the children if they take a step when they shouldn't, they must return to the wall and start over. Read the lines below one at a time. On the last commandment, tell the children to take as many giant steps as they need to reach you. When finished, sit down with the children and ask them the question below.

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| 1. Obey your parents | 7. Don't steal |
| 2. Brush your hair with a toothbrush | 8. Always smell your tooth |
| 3. Don't hurt other people | 9. Always tell the truth |
| 4. Make silly faces in the morning | 10. Don't cluck like a chicken |
| 5. Walk your pet kangaroo every day | 11. Eat cheese every day |
| 6. Keep your promise to the one you marry | 12. Don't wish for other people's stuff |

Question: Which one of these commandments do you have the hardest time obeying? Why is it hard for you? (Read the commandments in bold to the children one more time.)

TIPPY AND FRIENDS (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Dice (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"Love (*hug yourself*) your neighbor (*point to children*) as you love (*hug yourself*) yourself (*point to self*)." Matthew 22:39 (*put palms together like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the Bible verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, tell the children they're going to say the Bible verse while pretending to be Tippy the Mouse or one of her friends. Allow the children to take turns rolling the dice, then recite the Bible verse while performing the corresponding animal action below.

Animal Actions:

1. Tiptoe like Tippy the Mouse.
2. Flap your wings like Pete the Parrot.
3. Hop like Betty the Bunny.
4. Gallop like Henry the Horse.
5. Climb a tree like Sly the Sloth.
6. Choose your own animal movement.

2.5 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



TIPTOE LIKE TIPPY (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible story pictures (1 set per group)

Directions: Tell the children they get to pretend to be Tippy the Mouse and tiptoe around the room in search of the Bible story pictures. Have them close and cover their eyes while you hide the Bible story pictures around the room. (They are the same pictures from the Large Group storytelling time.) When finished, have the children open their eyes and tiptoe around the room in search of the pictures. Give clues if needed. After finding the pictures, the children can tiptoe back to you in the "Mouse House." Finally, have the children place the pictures in the order of the story, then ask them to use each picture to recount what happened in the story.

PRAY TO OBEY (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a praise picture to Jesus. It can be anything that shows Jesus they love Him. When finished, have the children show their picture and tell about it.

Say: We all mess up and break God's rules sometimes. That's why God gave us Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our mistakes so we can live with Him forever in Heaven. Let's say a prayer and thank Jesus for loving us so much.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking Jesus for His forgiveness and for loving us so much.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: The 5th commandment says to obey your parents. Is it ever hard for you to obey your parents? When?

Question: The 9th commandment says to always tell the truth. Why do you think it's so important to tell the truth?